

The Office Action at page 3 acknowledges that neither Foley nor Deering discloses or suggests the above-noted feature of the claims. However, the Office Action alleges that Griffin compensates for the above-noted deficiencies of Foley and Deering. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

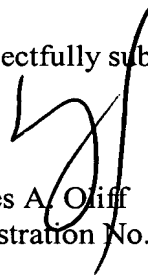
Griffin discloses at col. 3, lines 5-21 that the hidden surface removal process involves sorting primitives and then rendering the primitives *in back to front order* so that pixels for visible objects overwrite pixels for occluded objects. However, nowhere does Griffin disclose or suggest rendering the primitives *in front to back order* as required in the claimed invention. Therefore, Griffin does not disclose or suggest the objects are drawn in succession starting from an object nearest to the viewpoint, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 10, 11, 20, 21 and 27. Rather than rendering obvious the claimed invention, as asserted in the Office Action, Griffin in fact teaches exactly the opposite. Any combination of the references would not teach or suggest at least the claimed rendering order.

In summary, independent claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 27 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6, 12-16 and 22-26 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 10-16 and 20-27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 2, 2005

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